cations, drawings, critical parameters and also samples wherever required for indigenously developing items. These technical committees relate to armament, aeronautics, electronics, engineering equipment, marine stores, vehicles, infantry combat vehicles and general stores. These committees also give technical guidance during the development of the items by private sector units.

In order to give a further thrust to the participation of Private sector and specifically the small scale Industry sector in the development of defence equipment, an action plan in association with Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) was implemented in 1994. As part of the action plan three day workshops/exhibitions were organised at nine different industrial centres in different parts of the country. During these meets, samples of items were displayed and the participants apprised of the technical requirements, quality parameters and the procedure for registration of defence vendors.

Regular interaction between the Department of Defence Production & Supplies and private sector industry is maintained through a two tier mechanism consisting of an Apex Body under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DP&S) and three functional groups chaired by Joint Secretary (Supplies).

The value of the developmental defence supply orders placed on the private sector has risen from approximately Rs. 60 crores per annum during the early eighties to around Rs. 200 crore per annum in recent years. In 1994-95, this touched a peak of Rs. 265.36 crore. Once development is completed, the follow-on business in the private sector for these items is of a considerably higher magnitude.

Setting up of aircraft repair base

3827. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Pioneer of January 18, 1995 under the caption, "Allied signal plans repair base with HAL";

(b) if so, what are the facts and relevant details in this regard;

(c) what will be the cost of setting up of the aircraft repair base and when will the work on its setting up is likely to be completed; and

(d) what are the details for the sharing of the cost and profits of the proposed repair base?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has a long standing association with Allied Signal and has been manufacturing aircraft engines under licence. The two companies have signed a memorandum of understanding identifying future areas of cooperation which includes repair and overhaul of equipment manufactured by Allied Signal. However, there is no plan to set up an aircraft repair base jointly by the two companies.

Issues raised by Gen. Buch regarding ex-servicemen and war-widows

3828. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of Lt. General G.S. Buch (Retired) as reported in the Tribune of 3rd April, 1995 regarding the hardships and hazards faced by ex-servicemen, war-widows and their dependents emphasising the need for enforcement of the principle "one rank one-pension, a Bill of Rights of Ex-servicemen" and asking about the use and appropriation of the Post-war Reconstruction Fund constituted after world war II; and

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined and considered the issues

raised by Gen. Buch and what decision/ action has been taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The position regarding the three issues raised by Gen Buch, as mentioned in the news report is as under:

(i) *One-Rank-one Pension*: The demand was considered by a High Level Empowered Committee headed by a former Raksha Mantri. The demand was not found feasible for acceptance for a variety of reasons. However, to mitigate the hardship being faced by the Armed Forces pensioners retired prior to 1.1.1986, a scheme for grant of One-Time Increase in their pension has been sanctioned with effect from 1.1.1992.

(ii) *Bill of Rights of ex-Servicemen*: The demand has been examined and has not been found feasible.

(iii) *Post-War Reconstruction Fund*: No authentic information about the existence of such a fund is readily available at this distant date.

Indo-US Defence talks

3829. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be Indo-US Defence talks in June, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the 'Agreed Minute' on Defence relations between India and the United States, signed during the visit of Dr. William J. Perry, US Defence Secretary to India in January, 1995, the next round of talks between the two countries is scheduled to be held this year, when matters of mutual interest pertaining to defence cooperation will be discussed.

Meeting of Indo-French defence working group

3830. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Indo-French defence working group is scheduled to be held next month;

(b) if so, the venue/agenda decided therefor and whether the sale of French submarines to Pakistan as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th April, 1995 is included therein; and

(c) if not, what steps Government of India have taken so far to convey to the Government of France about India's apprehensions about the sale of submarines upsetting the security equilibrium in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The next meeting of the Indo French Joint Committee on Defence is scheduled to be held, at New Delhi at a date convenient to both sides during this year. In meetings of the Joint Committee, matters of mutual interest pertaining to defence cooperation are discussed. Regarding sale of French submarines to Pakistan as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th April, 1995, it is stated that Government maintains a constant watch on the developments in the security environment in this region. A close watch is also being kept on such arms transactions in this region as may have an eventual destabilising effect on the security scenario for the country and for this region as a whole. Government is also taking all necessary measures to maintain adequate defence preparedness and to ensure that nation's security is not compromised in any manner.